

Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

25011
N6

Northern Region News

1997 JUL 10 P 10:12

A Newsletter for Employees and Retirees

ISSUE 5

May 1997

Employement Trends Reflect Downsizing, & RO Reorganization

The Northern Region's reinvention and reorganization implementation plan is the product of more than two years' work in response to Vice President Al Gore's call for a Federal government that works better, is more efficient and effective.

R-1 efforts by the Regional Leadership Team focused on three pathways in services and project accomplishments

- to ensure that services and programs meet peoples' needs;
- to revise and update Forest Plans,
- and to re-define organizational roles and realign organizations
 - to be more efficient,
 - and improve delivery of goods and services.

Downsizing, budget reductions and funding projections are reflected in the R-1 downsizing/reinvention decline of 487 permanent (full time & part time) employees from 1992 to 1997. Eighty-five of these reductions were in the RO and 287 on R-1's National Forests.

President Clinton's budget projects that USDA employment will be reduced by an additional 10,000 staff years by the year 2002. It will save taxpayers over \$8 billion and make a major contribution to a balanced budget.

RO directors, facing a 25% budget reduction from 1995, were required to design organizational staffing that reflects that across-the-board funding for the regional headquarters. R-1 National Forests were required to make similar staffing adjustments.

Reinvention Hints: From Subteam 3 On FOIA Requests

by Jacqueline G. Hertel, Budget & Accounting Officer, Lewis & Clark National Forest. Member of R-1 Reinvention Subteam 3.

Many of us shudder when we hear of a voluminous Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request.

Here are suggestions from the 10-member Reinvention Subteam 3's report on ways to make these FOIA requests less of an impact.

The FOIA is law. How it affects the Forest Service, however, is within the control of the agency.

FOIA provides, generally, that any person has a right of access to Federal agency records, except for those records that are protected from disclosure by one of nine exemptions or by one of three special law enforcement record exclusions. Therefore, the records the Forest Service creates dictate the impact of the law.

The cost of FOIA requests can be reduced by employees more efficiently managing information records. The following table shows R-1's reported cost in fiscal year 1996 was about \$200 per request. This may be a low estimate because there are indications some units may not be keeping track of actual costs. Recently there was a R-1 FOIA request that, if filled, would have cost the unit approximately \$1

Northern Region Employees
(Permanent: Full-Time & Part-Time)
1992-1997

	July 1992	Oct. 1995	July 1996	Jan. 1997
Regional Office	454	395	378	369
R-1 National Forests	2,892	2,530	2,525	2,490
Northern RegionTOTAL	3,346	2,935	2,903	2,859

see **HINTS** continued on page 2



HINTS

Continued from page 1

Costs Related to FOIA

Fiscal Year 1996

R-1 Costs:	\$125,000.00	Service-wide Costs:	\$1,400,000.00
Collected:	\$126.00	Collected:	\$29,000.00
No. of Requests:	500	No. of Requests:	5,393

R-1 Reinvention Subteam 3 Recommendations:

Don't Gather More Documentation than is necessary to make a decision. Discard draft documents, computer messages, etc.

Follow Records Management Handbook direction which includes keeping and disposing of information within retention regulations.

To Highlight Costs, consider adding the following in responding to FOIA requests: "Although, according to the FOIA, you are exempt from being charged, this response cost \$500.00 to prepare."

When Information Is Informally Requested, respond promptly and within the regulations.

Avoid additional costs by not making people ask for information under FOIA.

As Large Requests Are Filled and fee waivers are granted, refer future requests for the same information to that organization, when reasonable.

Many project managers are unaware of the ways that we can make FOIA requests less of a burden. The person responsible for timely FOIA responses is not the only person who can reduce FOIA work and costs. Everyone who heads a decision-making project should try to implement these recommendations.

Management Plans Revisions Defining Scope of Analysis

Rocky Mountain Regional Forester Elizabeth Estill and Northern Regional Forester Hal Salwasser published, in *THE FEDERAL REGISTER* in February, their intention to revise the management plans of the Northern Great Plains.

The Northern Great Plains land and resource management planning includes National Grasslands and National Forest units in the Custer, Medicine Bow-Routt and Nebraska National Forests. It involves an estimated 2.9 million acres of public lands in Wyoming, Nebraska and the Dakotas.

Announcement of the intention to revise the management plans placed the analysis under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The first step is to define the scope of the analysis and relevant information that needs to be identified. Early definition of the scope avoids the traps of irrelevant information and needless analysis.

Scoping includes

- the *areas* under analysis.
- the decisions to be made.
- potential management approaches.
- connected issues & influences.

The study team will soon be designing management alternatives and describing the effects of the alternatives on the people, the land and the resources.

Written, FAX, E-mail, and telephone public comments are invited. If you have questions, telephone (308) 432-0343, or write Nebraska National Forest, 125 North Main St., Chadron, NE 69337. Send your comments and suggestions to the revision management team by July 31 for their consideration in revising the management plan.

Focus areas in revising the management plans include: Rangeland & Forest Health; Community & Lifestyle Relationships; Livestock Grazing; Oil & Gas Leasing; Plant & Animal Control; Recreation & Travel Management; Special Area Designations.

North Dakota National Grasslands will be hosting a series of public open houses, June 9-13. Places, dates and times will be announced later.

The final Environmental Impact Statement and Revised Plans will be released in May 1999, based on public desires, sound science, resource knowledge and ecosystem management.



BLM, Forest Service Study Cooke City Area Mineral Withdrawal

by Sherry Milburn, Public Affairs Officer,
Cooke City Area Mineral Withdrawal Team,
Billings, MT.

The Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) have released a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Cooke City Area Mineral Withdrawal.

The analysis of the proposed 22,000-acre withdrawal on the Custer and Gallatin National Forests was directed by President Clinton. The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is on a fast track due to expiration of a two-year temporary withdrawal on August 30, 1997. The withdrawal area, located adjacent to Yellowstone National Park near Cooke City, will reopen to filing of new mining claims on that date unless a longer term withdrawal is in place.

The purpose of the mineral withdrawal is to protect water quality and fisheries in the headwaters of the Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone and Stillwater Rivers and in Soda Butte Creek, which flows into Yellowstone National Park.

Two alternatives evaluated in the DEIS are (1) the "no action" alternative which continues the mineral management under the current mining laws, and (2) the proposed mineral withdrawal. The proposal does not apply to private land or to valid existing rights associated with unpatented mining claims. Public comments on the Draft EIS were accepted through April 28.

The proposed mineral withdrawal is often confused with the "New World Mine Agreement" which is being pursued to halt development of a major mine near Cooke City, Montana. However, the mineral withdrawal decision and the New World Mine Agreement are separate and distinct processes.

The mineral withdrawal could proceed in the absence of the New World Mine Agreement, and vice versa. The proposed mineral withdrawal does increase the effectiveness of the New World Mine Agreement by withdrawing from mineral entry any property interests acquired in the area by the United States.

The decision on the proposed withdrawal lies with the Secretary of Interior. Custer Forest Supervisor Nancy Curriden and Gallatin Forest Supervisor Dave Garber will submit a recommendation to Regional Forester Hal Salwasser. The Regional Forester and BLM State Director Larry Hamilton will then forward a recommendation to the Secretary of the Interior. If the withdrawal is approved, it will be forwarded to Congress for review.

For additional details on the proposed mineral withdrawal, telephone the co-leaders of the Withdrawal Team: (406/329-3093) John Thompson, BLM, Billings, MT; or Larry Timchak, Forest Service, Billings, MT.



Weed-Free Feed Required On MT BLM/NF Lands

by Jim Olivarez, Program Leader, Range Implementation & Noxious Weeds, RO Forest & Rangeland Management.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the Forest Service have proposed a requirement that all Forest Service and BLM visitors and permittees be required to use certified noxious weed-seed-free hay, grain, straw, mulch, cubes and pelletized feed on lands administered by the two agencies in Montana.

The proposed order was published in the *FEDERAL REGISTER*, March 27, 1997. Forest Service Regional Forester Hal Salwasser, Missoula, MT, and Larry Hamilton, BLM Montana State Director, Billings, MT, explained the proposal is planned to combat the spread of noxious weeds. The requirement is proposed with the full cooperation of the Montana Department of Agriculture.

Salwasser and Hamilton pointed out that noxious weeds are a serious problem in

Montana. They said "Undesirable weeds such as leafy spurge, spotted knapweed and musk thistle invade healthy ecosystems, displace native vegetation, reduce species diversity and destroy wildlife habitat. Widespread infestations lead to soil erosion and stream sedimentation. Noxious weed invasions also weaken reforestation efforts, reduce forage for domestic and wild ungulates and threaten protected plants and animals."

The requirement to use certified noxious weed-seed-free forage is already in effect on four National Forests in Montana; parts of five other National Forests in Montana; and one of the three BLM Districts in the State.

The proposed order would make the requirement consistent across the State and in line with programs in surrounding states: Idaho, Utah, Nebraska, Wyoming and Colorado.

The proposal was open to public comment for 30 days. The order will be in effect this field season in Montana.

Lewis & Clark NF Reunion Picnic, August 16, 1997

The Lewis & Clark National Forest staff is planning a Centennial Reunion Picnic for Saturday, August 16, for employees, former employees and retirees. Tours of the new Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center and the refurbished, historic Judith Guard Station are planned for the weekend. If you formerly worked on the Lewis and Clark NF, please call or write the L&C receptionist, Leah MacDonald, with your address. We would like to invite you to our celebration.

computer address:

L.MacDonald:R01F15A or
Lewis and Clark National Forest
PO Box 869

Great Falls, Montana 59403
Telephone (406) 791-7700

Prescribed Fires This Year In R-1 On 50,000 Acres

Prescribed fires are expected to burn more acres than wildfires this year in the Northern Region.

"In the past five years, most of our prescribed burns have been less than 50 acres," Jerry Williams, R-1 director of Fire, Aviation and Air, told a recent meeting of the Regional Leadership Team. "Now We're going to use bigger burns."

Prescribed fire will be used on 52,465 acres that historically depended on fire to maintain health and diversity, Williams explained. The Region averages 50,000 acres of wildfires each year.

The Region's "Living With Fire" initiative is an attempt to restore fire to five million acres of fire-dependent ecosystems.

To fully return forests to a 20-year fire cycle, the region would need 250,000 acres of prescribed burns each year. "This acreage is not possible," Williams said, "given the budget/ manpower constraints and public fears."

Eighty years of modern suppression and fire exclusion, Williams pointed out, "has resulted in unhealthy, overcrowded forests

prone to 'lethal fires'." So intense are the modern-era fires, he said, even older pines are killed and the soil is heat-damaged. "In attempting to suppress the fires, firefighters are increasingly at risk."

Of the five million acres of fire-dependent forests in R-1, Williams said, just seven percent are now available to us for prescribed burning, low-intensity fires that maintain, rather than destroy the forest. He told the leadership team "We've got to get the stands into a condition where they can take a prescribed fire." If done correctly, pre-fire thinning can reap enough money to pay for the prescribed fire that follows, Williams explained.

Missoula District Ranger Dave Stack has scheduled prescribed burning for 3,000 acres over the next five to 10 years in the Rattlesnake National Recreation Area north of Missoula. "It is critical," Stack said, "for the Rattlesnake to remain the Rattlesnake; fire must return to the ecosystem."

Weather permitting, the first 1,500 acres are scheduled for burning this spring. The prescribed burns will kill small Douglas-fir trees that are encroaching on the forest and will kill the top of shrubs, allowing them to resprout.

Living With Fire



He said wildlife habitat was one of the reasons for designating the Rattlesnake National Recreation Area. Prescribed burns "fit well with the intent of the legislation."

Don Black, fire program leader for the Flathead National Forest, reports the Flathead program calls for burning 3,450 acres, about 400 acres more than 1996. He says the Flathead NF will seek public comment on its long-term burn proposals.

The new five-year plan is made possible by rule changes that allow more flexibility in budgeting.

The Northern Region's total prescribed burn has increased from 8,900 acres in 1992 to an anticipated 52,465 acre burn for 1997.

Year	Acres	Total Cost	Per Acre
1992	8,944	\$884,000	\$98.83
1993	7,991	\$1,796,000	\$99.82
1994	22,808	\$1,697,000	\$74.70
1995	31,446	\$3,017,000	\$95.94
1996	35,238	\$2,640,000	\$74.92
1997	52,465	\$2,900,000	\$55.00

Prescribed fire projects now in the R-1 planning pipeline include Salmon River, 1,000,000 acres (in cooperation with R-4); Bitterroot/Lolo National Forests, 1,000,000 acres (public & private lands); Helena National Forest, 7,000 to 20,000 acres.

An Interpretive Partnership, The Charlie Russell Trail

*by District Ranger Lawrence A. "Larry" Timchak,
Judith RD, Lewis & Clark NF, Stanford, Montana*



When thinking about what makes a place special or unique, the land and the people, as immortalized by Charlie Russell, come, to mind for the Judith Basin. The western epic is faithfully captured in his paintings. Many of his scenes are from the Judith Basin.

What better way to interpret the history of the West than through Charlie Russell's paintings and drawings? His art tells the story of the American Indians, buffalo and wolves, cowboys and the open range, mountain men and miners and the inevitable changes that came with homesteaders—farming, houses, roads, highways and railroads.

The story is told where it happened, on the range and in the mountains, where people can experience the West as it was, and as it is today. Interpretive partnerships weave together rural development, heritage and recreational goals to help:

- Preserve and interpret the rich history of the Judith Basin;
- Provide satisfying and rewarding experiences for visitors interested in Western history;
- Add value to auto touring;
- Help diversify local economies by developing responsible tourism.

The following organizations supported the designation of US Highway 87, between Great Falls and Lewistown as the "Charlie Russell Trail":

Historical Societies: Judith Basin Historical Society; Utica Historical Society; Cascade County Historical Society; Central Montana Historical Society; Historic Lewistown Accord. Government: Cascade County Commissioners; Fergus County Commissioners; Judith Basin County

Commissioners; Lewistown City Council; Lewis and Clark National Forest. Museums: C.M. Russell Museum; Lewistown Art Center. Chambers of Commerce: Lewistown Chamber of Commerce; Stanford Commercial Club; Russell Country Tourism.

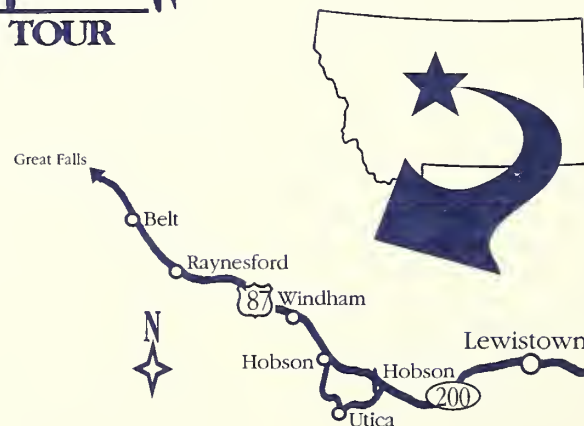
Forty representatives sponsored legislation in the 1993 Montana legislature to designate U.S. Highway 87 the Charles Russell Trail. Production of the Russell Trail interpretive brochure was a collaborative effort involving the Forest Service, Judith Basin County, Russell County, Judith Basin Historical Society and the C. M. Russell Museum.

More than \$5,000 in art reproduction fees were waived by art museums around the country. It was the first Community Transportation Enhancement Program project approved in Montana and received matching funds from Russell Country for

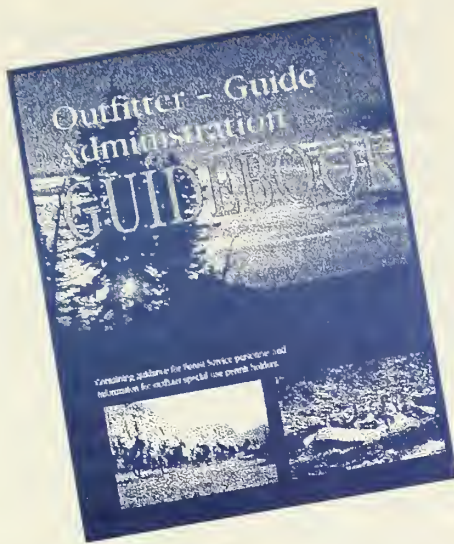
printing the brochure. Highway signs along the Russell Trail were funded with a grant from the Montana Historical Society.

Benefits of the interpretive partnership included:

- increased community/regional pride in local history and heritage.
- pulled communities together to work on a common goal.
- was a successful use of partnerships to accomplish community goals.
- diversified local economies with increased tourism; economic spin-offs include development of eco/historic tours; use of brochures to help market local businesses, marketing tool to focus on a distinctive and interesting theme for the area.
- helps build and maintain community working relationships involving the Forest Service.



Outfitter Guidebook Released



In an effort to achieve more consistency in outfitter-guide administration, several R-1 RO staff members have produced an "Outfitter-Guide Administration Guidebook."

"The guidebook has been in preparation for almost five years, on and off," explained Steve Morton, one of the authors. Morton is program leader in Wilderness and Outfitter Management, RO Recreation, Minerals, Lands, Heritage and Wilderness (RMLH&W)

"It's been accepted by the Chief's Office as a National guidebook for two years. After which, it will be reviewed and, if necessary, revised," said Ron Erickson, land use specialist, RO RMLH&W, another of the authors.

Ed Stellmach, now retired, was the other principal author. He contributed much of the financial management information in the 240-page guide. Bob Ennis, on detail to R-1 RO from the Intermountain Region (R-4) performed yeoman work as editor of the guide.

Guidebooks have been distributed to each Region, every National Forest headquarters and to each outfitter-guide. "It is hoped the new guide will help everyone speak the same outfitter-guide language," Morton said.

The guidebook has chapters titled Introduction, Definitions, Analysis, Application & Authorization Process, Permit Administration and Accountability. The appendix contains many examples, forms and suggestions based on years of outfitter-guide administration experience.



Grappled, piled and burned area, in Little Snowy Mountains, to create corridor where understory vegetation is removed, ladder fuels are pruned and trees are thinned. Photo by Richard H. Smith

Vegetative Management In Little Snowy Mountains

by Richard H. Smith, Staff Officer, Land Management Planning & Fire, Lewis & Clark NF, Great Falls, MT.

There is a great deal of interest today in "ecosystem management", and in reintroducing fire into short-interval, fire-adapted ecosystems.

What better place to see how one Forest is addressing this concern than in the ponderosa pine forest of the Little Snowies, one of the small, isolated mountain ranges of the Lewis and Clark National Forest, in central Montana.

As early as 1970, Forest managers recognized the area's tremendous fire fuels problem. Beginning in 1991, personnel from the Lewis and Clark NF and the Musselshell Ranger District undertook and completed the "Little Snowies Vegetative and Public Access Final Environmental Impact Statement" (EIS) in 1993.

The EIS provided direction for implementation of vegetation management practices

scheduled over a 10-year period, 1993-2003. To date, the District has:

- constructed 2.0 miles (162 acres) of fuel breaks.
- grappled, piled and burned 557 acres of ground fuels through contract use of mechanical excavators.
- reduced fuels on 336 acres through commercial timber sales.
- burned conifer encroachment on 195 acres of grasslands.

These actions are tied together to create a 100- to 600-foot corridor where understory vegetation is removed, ladder fuels are pruned, and trees are thinned to 20-50 foot spacing. The corridors break up the near-continuous ponderosa pine forest into islands of fuels and serve as anchor points to suppress wildfires and ignite prescribe fires.

The Ranger District is ready to start the

second phase of the project:

- burning 295 acres of conifer encroachment on grasslands.
- constructing 4.2 miles (338 acres) of fuel breaks.
- reducing fuels on 307 acres through commercial timber sales.
- introducing fire through underburning on 1,000 acres.

The Final EIS includes a decision to establish the Minerva Creek Research Natural Area (RNA). It features a climax forest of ponderosa pine. The area is unique because, generally, all ponderosa pine forests in central Montana are of mixed composition with Douglas-fir, in which case Douglas-fir will become the climax forest tree species. The RNA will provide a natural laboratory for studying the role of fire on ponderosa pine and grassland vegetation communities.

This summer, the Musselshell RD, Harlowton, MT, will host a show-me trip into the Little Snowy Mountains. For more information contact: Mike Widdicombe, District Fire Management Officer, (406) 632-4391.

Content Analysis Soon To Be Available On Your IBM Computer

By Peri R. Suenram, Environmental Planning Coordinator, Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest, Dillon, Montana.

Public involvement is an intricate and crucial element in the administration, planning and management of public lands, particularly National Forests. That is as it should be in our democratic republic. These public lands do belong to the citizens.

As more people from a growing variety of publics participate in the Forest Service's public involvement activities, it has been necessary to design and develop more sophisticated, accurate and efficient ways of interpreting, recording, analyzing and utilizing the 100s of thousands of public comments, opinions and suggestions that come to the Forest Service.

The Northern Region has pioneered content analysis for more than 30 years. Since the RARE I and RARE II (Roadless Area Review & Evaluation) public involvement in the 1970s on wilderness identification, planning and management, the volume of public comments has grown to the point it is recognized as a vital step in the administration of public lands. Today, Federal legislation requires that public involvement be part of planning and

management decisions. Content analysis is an essential technique in providing valuable feedback readings on public thinking, opinions and suggestions. It is recognized as a vital element in sound planning and decision-making. But in the beginning, when public comments and opinions were invited on wilderness designations following passage of the Wilderness Act in 1964, it was a labor-intensive, pencil-and-paper process.

In the early days the process was slow and cumbersome. Variations were sometimes apparent in content interpretations by different analysis readers. A new, R-1 content analysis computer program has improved the process. A well-trained cadre of experienced content analysis readers is helping National Forests become more proficient in the use and application of the Oracle data base. It is now being converted to the IBM and should be available region-wide by mid-August.

It is proving a great tool for managing and utilizing valuable public input generated from environmental impact statements, assessments, proposals, questionnaires, etc.

The new program helps in responding to the Public Involvement Model:

- how can we best accept and use what we have learned from the public? and
- what is the best way to respond to the public?

The new, computer-designed content analysis program permits categorizing comments from the public into subjects and categories. One of the benefits of this categorizing capability is that it facilitates and improves understanding of the public comments by the line officer and the interdisciplinary team. For example, instead of having to read 100 letters, the system generates all of the comments relating to threatened & endangered species, timber, recreation, mining, etc. When used properly, the program also contributes to the Forest Service's credibility by not losing comments. It permits the public to see their comments and the Forest Service's responses and track their comments on a more personal level.

The Oracle database content analysis permits personalizing public responses by picking up all individual comments and the Forest Service responses and generating a "form letter". This is more responsive because the individual commenter can see the comment, followed by the Forest Service response. Think about it! It is hard to argue with your own words.

No doubt one of the most attractive and valuable elements in the Oracle program is that it provides a consistent way to record, categorize and manage the growing volumes of public comments the Forest Service receives for processing.

Computerized Content Analysis Used by Government, Business

by Peri R. Suenram, Environmental Planning Coordinator, Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF SO, Dillon, Montana.

The content analysis program is being used extensively throughout the Forest Service, by other Federal agencies and in private organizations, industries and businesses. In the Forest Service, the primary application is at the interdisciplinary team level, wherever it occurs. Below are examples of the types of projects utilizing the

computerized content analysis program. The examples show how content analysis can be utilized on a variety of projects to achieve credibility, accuracy and consistency, while handling large volumes of information from the public in a way that permits the publics to follow their individual comments

OIL/GAS EIS Content analysis was first utilized on the Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF in 1993 in connection with an Oil/Gas Environmental Impact Statement. The real success in this project was the use of the database's "form letter" capability. Instead of doing a multitude of open houses,



public meetings, etc., the content analysis approach facilitated the Forest taking a "personal approach" in public

involvement in this highly contentious NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) document. All public comments were put into the system. The response element in the program was used to build individual letters to each respondent, explaining how the Forest Service intends to use their comments. This public involvement approach proved to be very successful.

Continued on next page

FOREST PLAN A content analysis is now being done by the Daniel Boone NF, R-8, in managing more than 5,000 comments the Forest received in connection with Forest Plan amendment scoping.

TRACKING COMMENTS R-1 is making wide use of content analysis on all projects that generate more than 20 to 25 substantive comments. Because it is proving so effective at helping teams track comments, it is looked upon favorably in review processes at the Regional level. Appeal review teams have found that using content analysis makes it much easier to track public involvement.

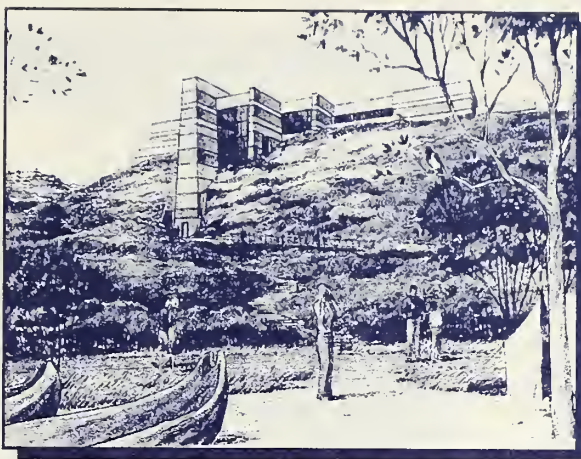
R-1 TRAINING ACADEMY In 1996 and 1997, the Regional content analysis training was provided at the R-1 Regional Training Academy at the University of Montana. It was also presented at the International Association of Public Participation Practitioners conferences in British Columbia, Canada, in 1995 and in Washington, D.C., in 1994.

CO-OP PROJECTS R-1 has used content analysis on cooperative projects with other agencies. Content analysis was used in connection with the Grey Wolf Reintroduction to Yellowstone National Park/ Central Idaho program 1993. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement were received from more than 160,000 individuals, government agencies and organizations. The Forest Service worked on this cooperative project with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. Sherry Munther, RO, and Deanna Riebe, Clearwater NF, were the team leaders for the content analysis. Approximately 37 people served on the analysis team. An additional 15 people served on the data-entry team.

BEAR REINTRODUCTION Content analysis was also used to process public comments on reintroduction of grizzly bear into the Bitterroot Ecosystem of central Idaho (September 1995). This, too, was a cooperative program involving the Forest Service and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. The content analysis IBM computer program enabled the grizzly bear reintroduction decision-makers to identify the primary controversies in the public involvement.

QUICK, ACCURATE To summarize public comments on the Inland Native Fish Strategy (INFISH) environmental assessment Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), the content analysis program was utilized in reviewing the comments from 121 entities. The system enabled the interdisciplinary team and the decision-makers to quickly and accurately identify the need for new alternatives.

For Information about training in the use and application of the new IBM content analysis program, telephone Kimberly D. Landl, RO Public & Governmental Relations (406) 329-3095.



BIG Year In '97 For Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail Interpretive Center

The Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail Interpretive Center, under construction on the bluff along the Missouri River near Giant Springs Heritage State Park at Great Falls, MT, is scheduled to open in early winter 1998.

A multipurpose room with sinks, tables, and space for art and science projects will be included in the Center specifically for use by school students.

In addition to the study of Lewis & Clark's exploration of the Louisiana Purchase, 1804 to 1806, the Center also will offer students and others what organizers hope is an accurate historical interpretation of the Native American tribes of central North America, reports James Parker Shield a board member on the Interpretive Center's nonprofit organization. Shield is tribal chairman of the Little Shell tribe.

Project coordinator Jane Weber, Lewis & Clark NF, said planning is just beginning for the opening celebration, possibly on the shirrtails of the C. M. Russell Auction of Western Art, held each March in Great Falls. Interest in the opening of the Center has sparked national attention. The annual convention of the national Lewis & Clark Trail Heritage Foundation is scheduled for August 1998 and will bring nearly 1,000 visitors for a week of lectures, field trips, and re-enactment activities.

The Forest Service expects the 23,000-square-foot Center building to be completed by August. Acceptance of the building will kick off the installation of exhibits and outdoor landscaping. Exhibits will portray the chronological journey of the Expedition and focus on the specific Indian tribes who met Lewis and Clark. The Forest has coordinated the design - both interpretive text and exhibit elements - with many tribal members. Considerable exhibit space has been allocated to tribes within the Montana-Idaho country, specifically the Mandan-Hidasta,

Shoshone, Nez Perce, Blackfeet, and Crow tribes. Landscaping around the building perimeter will be primarily native plant species of the Lewis and Clark era. Wayne Phillips [retired in January], a Forest Service native plant specialist, collected native plant seeds now being germinated and grown at the Forest Service tree nursery in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, for transplanting to the grounds at the Center.

Once inside the center, visitors will encounter a 16-foot-wide stone compass rose, an inlaid floor decoration inscribed with over 550 contributors to the project.

Looking across the compass, visitors will have a panoramic view of the Missouri River through massive picture windows in the lobby. A two-story, life-sized diorama of a canoe being portaged by Expedition crewmen is viewed from both the lobby and the exhibit hall. "The visitor is met by the expedition pulling the pirogue out of the river," explains Dale Gorman, president of the Interpretive Center's private partner, the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center Fund, Inc. This nonprofit organization has raised half the funds for the project, contributing \$3 million in cash and countless hours of volunteer time.

A video program will be shown in the 162-person capacity auditorium to prepare visitors for the Center tour. Planners expect 200,000 to 250,000 visitors annually for the first five years and then it could increase, Gorman said.

According to Jane Weber, the project is an outstanding model of public-private partnership. "In 1994, when Congress required an equal match of private and federal funds," she explained, "I never thought I'd see the day when the building would be constructed. The dedication and personal donations these private partners have made is beyond description."

Now You Can Rent 110-Year-Old-Cabin: Eagle Creek R.S.

*by Steve Wyatt, District Resource Assistant,
Townsend (MT) Ranger District,
Helena National Forest.*

Looking for a backcountry winter experience with a historic flavor?

Eagle Guard Station (commonly referred to as Eagle Creek Ranger Station), on the Townsend RD, Helena NF, is now available for reservation, from December 1 to May 15, through the Northern Region cabin rental program.

Situated in the heart of the Elkhorn Wildlife Management Unit, Eagle Guard Station is the oldest administrative log structure on the Helena NF. Richard (Dick) Owens, a local miner, built the original cabin in 1887 as a home for himself, his wife, Sarah, and his daughter, Sadie. The isolation proved too much for his pioneer family who left the cabin for the civilized comforts of nearby Radersburg. In 1906, the cabin was taken over by the Forest Service and used administratively until the early 1950s. Riders from the Crow Creek and Indian Creek Livestock Associations also used the cabin until the 1970s.

In 1991, two volunteers assisted the Forest Service in organizing a campaign to restore the deteriorating, three-room log cabin. Volunteers Al Adams and Ben Mayger took on the project as a personal crusade to help preserve a piece of local history.

Steve Wyatt of the Townsend District, organizer of the restoration effort, solicited the help of cabin restoration experts from Glacier National Park, and later the Northern Region's historical preservation team, to lead the critical restoration activities. With respect for the work of Dick Owens, these experts used "primitive" techniques, tools and local materials. The cabin's integrity and original features have been preserved. Another key volunteer, John Haas, contributed many weeks and his carpentry expertise in crafting the cabin's furnishings. The restoration work was completed in 1994.

This project was a success because of the donated materials and equipment provided by the local community as well as the help from the many volunteers who gave unselfishly of their time and talents. Restoring



RESTORED EAGLE CREEK RANGER STATION,
looking north at front of three-bedroom cabin.

Eagle Guard Station provided an opportunity to bring together individuals with varied backgrounds and skills for a common goal of preserving this unique facility.

While Eagle Guard Station once again serves as a government administrative site for Federal and State agencies, it is also now available to the public through the R-1's cabin rental program. The cabin can be rented for \$20 per night for a maximum of five consecutive days.

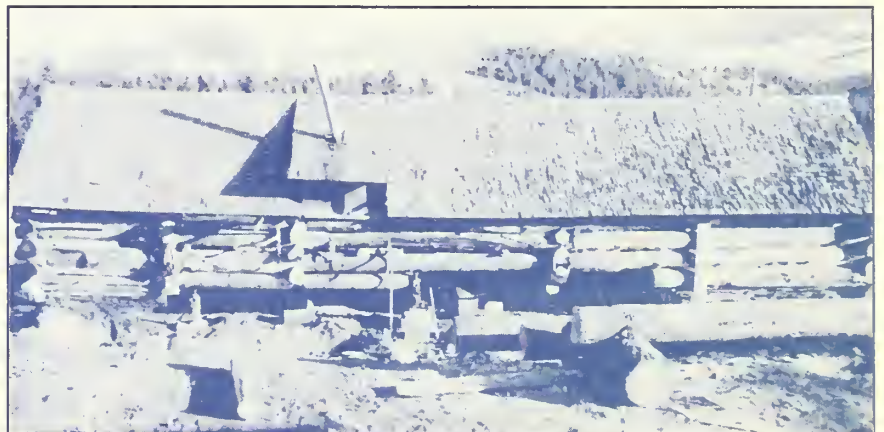
An ideal location for wildlife viewing and challenging outdoor recreation, Eagle Guard Station can only be accessed by horse, foot, bicycle, or skis for a four-mile, one-way excursion through elk winter range to the edge of the 45,000-acre roadless portion of the



KITCHEN AREA: *All furniture (except chairs) is hand made.*

Elkhorn Mountains. Offering the bear necessities, the cabin is furnished with three double-bunk beds, cooking and eating utensils, and a wood stove for heating and cooking. Horse corrals are provided, but no drinking water is available.

For additional details, telephone the Townsend Ranger District: (406) 266-3425.



ROTTED LOGS BEING REPLACED on Eagle Creek Ranger Station. Railroad jacks were used to support the cabin while the logs were being replaced. Photos by Steve Wyatt.

Employee Spotlight

NAME: Vicky MacLean, range technician, Helena RD, Helena (MT) NF.

WHERE I AM FROM - As a little kid, I grew up overseas. I moved to rural Connecticut about the time I started school. I lived in Connecticut & Vermont mostly until I moved to Wyoming in 1973 for graduate school. I spent most of my time in the woods on my pony, skating on the lakes, busting beaver dams and generally living the life of a country kid.

FAMILY - Most of it is quite stuffy and proper, but thankfully far away! A "significant other" who is a log home builder. Also, 11 sled dogs and a black lab.

JOBS - Most of my college era jobs were horse related. When I got to Montana, I worked for a small environmental consulting firm for 12 years before coming to the Forest Service in 1988. In my pre-FS life, I was a geologist/cartographer, then went to University of Montana and Montana State University to pick up range courses. I have a broad natural sciences background.

GREATEST JOB - Summer field & camp assistant at the Arctic Institute of North America research station in the Yukon Territory of Canada. We lived in plywood shacks along the airstrip and spent time coring glaciers, flying around the St Elias Range, digging soil pits and playing volley ball through the endless daylight.

DREAM JOB - My present job is great.

GREATEST ADVENTURE - Week-long dog sledding trip in the Great Slave Lake area, Northwest Territory.

INTERESTING ADVENTURE - Working on the movie "Iron Will" with my sled dogs a few years ago. Never again!

DREAM VACATION - A trip to the high arctic to see big glaciers, wildlife and trace the routes of the old arctic explorers.

OTHER INTERESTS - Outside of work, I enjoy dog sledding and dog shows, puttering around doing outside "chores" like firewood and yardwork. Inside I enjoy quilting. My "spare time at work" interest is Helena National Forest history. I have accumulated quite a collection of photos and information about our old ranger stations, lookouts and rangers.

PEOPLE I WISH I HAD MET - I would love to have known some of the early day Forest Service rangers and the early explorers who opened the west and the north country like the Hudson Bay fur traders.



VICKY MACLEAN and her sled dogs.

Short Notes



NEW SOUTHWEST MONTANA INTAGENCY VISITOR/TRAVEL MAPS: Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF, Bureau of Land Management, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, National Wildlife Refuge, Agricultural Research Service, Montana State lands. East Half and West Half maps sell for \$4 each.

SMOKEJUMPERS START '97 TRAINING at Missoula Aerial Fire Depot. Experienced jumpers (125) trained in the first classes in April and in June. Twenty will be assigned to the Silver City, New Mexico, base to assist in suppressing fires in Arizona and New Mexico. They will return to Montana and Idaho bases in July. During the 1997 season, 29 smokejumpers will be stationed at Grangeville, Idaho and 18 will be stationed at West Yellowstone, MT.

NORTHERN GREAT PLAINS SCOPING for management review of 2.9 million acres of public lands in R-1 and R-2 includes the four National Grasslands in the Custer National Forest in the Dakotas. The "public scoping" period extends through July.

CUSTER NF SO OFFICE MOVES: The new office is now at 1310 Main Street, Billings, MT 59105. Phone and FAX numbers will remain the same: (406) 657-6361 and (406) 657-6444 respectively. The new mailing address is P.O. Box 50760, Billings, MT 59105.

MISSOULA TECHNOLOGY & DEVELOPMENT CENTER publications: "Handtools For Trail Work" (TE92A17); "Stock-Drawn Equipment for Trail Work" (3E32A14); "The Stuffblock Snow Stability Test" (6E62A95).

Almost 800 Miles Continental Divide Trail In Region One

By Dan Gard, RO Public & Governmental Relations

Known as the "Backbone of America," the Continental Divide spans the United States from the Mexico to Canada.

Rain and snowmelt flowing down the eastern flanks of the Divide reach the Atlantic Ocean via the Missouri, Arkansas, and Mississippi Rivers to the Gulf of Mexico. On the west side, runoff finds its way to the Pacific Ocean by way of the Colorado and Columbia Rivers.

It's no wonder the Blackfeet Indians of Montana called the Divide the "Center of the World."

Struggling across the rolling prairies, westward bound pioneers saw the Continental Divide looming ahead like a massive wall on the horizon. After discovering a passage over the Divide at South Pass in Wyoming, the winding barrier of mountains became less of an obstacle and more of a scenic passage through the Rockies.

Today, the Continental Divide provides hikers and other recreationists with opportunities to experience some of America's rugged, undeveloped and majestic country.

Under the provisions of the National Trails Systems Act of 1968, Congress established the 3,100-mile trail the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail (CDT). This same legislation established the Appalachian and Pacific Crest Trails.

Along the CDT, hikers enjoy plants, scenery and terrain that include Spanish Bayonet cactus and snow-capped peaks soaring above 14,000 feet. In some places the trail is not yet marked or designated. In other places it crosses private land, interstate highways, and sometimes follows mining and logging roads. In places where the land is managed for multiple-use one might encounter people on horses, mountain bikes, snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles or, possibly, roller skates!

The CDT crosses lands under the administration and management of Federal and State agencies, including three National Parks, twenty-four National Forests, and lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

The Forest Service, as lead agency for the administration of the trail, works in close



THE CHINESE WALL along the Continental Divide Trail in the Bob Marshall Wilderness.

cooperation with the Continental Divide Trail Society and the Continental Divide Trail Alliance. The Society, Alliance and the Forest Service are dedicated to the planning, development, protection and maintenance of the trail so as to further appreciation and enjoyment.

A total of 795 miles of the route are in Montana and Idaho. It passes through Glacier and Yellowstone National Parks, the Blackfeet Indian Reservation and the Bob Marshall and Anaconda-Pintler Wildernesses.

In addition, nine National Forests comprise this northern portion of the CDT. These include the Targhee and Salmon-Challis in Idaho, and the Beaverhead-Deerlodge, Bitterroot, Flathead, Gallatin, Helena, and Lewis and Clark National Forests in Montana.

To hike the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail from end to end is challenging, but those who do find it a rewarding experience. No other trail offers such diverse topography, scenery, or opportunity for exploration and solitude.

A woman who completed the journey expressed it this way: "Words cannot tell you just how beautiful it was. I went close to twelve-hundred miles without seeing another backpacker. It's so peaceful."

With that in mind perhaps its time to dig those old boots out of the closet and start planning a hike along the "Backbone of America."

For more information on the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail contact one of the following:

Continental Divide Trail Society
3704 N. Charles St., No. 601
Baltimore, MD 21218

Continental Divide Trail Alliance
P.O. Box 628
Pine, CO 80407

For information on the trail in Montana and Idaho contact:

USDA Forest Service
Northern Region Office
P.O. Box 7669
Missoula, MT 59807

Glacier National Park
West Glacier, MT 59936

Yellowstone National Park
P.O. Box 168
Yellowstone National Park, WY 82190

Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
Butte District Office
P.O. Box 3388
Butte, MT 59702

BLM - Salmon District Office
P.O. Box 430
Salmon, ID 83467

Idaho Dept. of Parks & Recreation
Statehouse Mail
2177 Warm Springs Ave.
Boise, ID 83720

Montana Dept. of Fish, Wildlife & Parks
1420 E. 6th Ave.
Helena, MT 59620

Waterton Lakes National Park
Waterton Lakes, Alberta
Canada T0K 2M0

Adventure Cycling Association
180 E. Pine
Missoula, MT 59801

Jan Wold To Retire From Forest Service

Jan Wold, Sonora, California, Supervisor of the Stanislaus National Forest, has announced her plan to retire in June, after 25 years of Federal service, mostly in the Forest Service.

Wold holds a BS in entomology (1968) and MS degree in entomology and fisheries (1973) from Oregon State University. She began her Forest Service career at the Pacific Northwest Experiment Station, Corvallis, Oregon. After several assignments in the Northwest, including two years, 1988-1989, as Deputy Forest Supervisor on the Idaho Panhandle NFs, she was promoted to district ranger for the Dale RD, Umatilla NF in Oregon. She served as District Ranger at Estacada RD on the Mt. Hood NF. From 1986 to 1988, Wold served in the Pacific Northwest Regional headquarters in Portland.

After two years as deputy forest supervisor on the Idaho Panhandle National Forests, Wold was named supervisor of the Stanislaus NF in California in 1990.

Kent Nelson Retires

Kent Nelson, environmental coordinator, RO Ecosystem Assessment and Planning, retired in May after 36 years of Federal Service. Thirty-three of the years were with the Forest Service.

Born in Lawrence, Kansas, Nelson graduated from Shawnee Mission (Kansas) High School and holds a BS degree in forest management from Colorado State University.

He did seasonal work and had his first permanent assignment on the Flathead National Forest, 1958-1962. After serving in the Army, 1963-1966, he was assigned to the Deerlodge NF from 1966 to 1973.

Nelson worked on the Lolo NF, 1973 to 1981; Helena NF, 1981 to 1988; and was assigned to the Northern Region headquarters in Missoula in 1988.

Mr. and Mrs. (Shirley) Nelson will continue to make their home in Missoula. They are the parents of two grown sons.

J.D. Coleman, Flathead NF PAO, Retires

J. D. Coleman, public affairs officer, Flathead NF, Kalispell, MT, for the past six years, has retired from active Federal service. He has been replaced by Allan Rowley, wilderness and prescribed natural fire forester for the Spotted Bear RD, Columbia Falls, MT.

Coleman, a University of Montana journalism graduate (1956), came to the Flathead NF in 1991 from Atlanta, GA, where he was director of public affairs for the Georgia State Patrol. He spent the middle 1980s running his own public relations and marketing company, Creative Communications. He also served as disaster

assistance reservist with the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

After 20 years in the United States Army, Coleman retired in 1979 as a lieutenant colonel. From 1980 to 1983, he was director of communications for the Atlanta Chamber of commerce. In this post he managed metropolitan Atlanta's \$3-million economic development campaign.

Coleman said he considers the establishment of an interpretive service on the AMTRAK run between Whitefish and East Glacier as a Flathead Forest accomplishment for which he is most proud.

Post retirement plans for him include continued residence in Kalispell and writing a history of a crucial battle of the Korean War: "WONJU, The Korean Gettysburg." Two previous military histories by Coleman, about Vietnam campaigns, were published by St. Martin's Press, New York: "PLEIKU, The Dawn of Helicopter Warfare in Vietnam" and "INCURSION, From America's Chokehold on the NVA Lifelines to the Sacking of the Cambodian Sanctuaries".

Coleman enlisted in the Army in 1948, served in Korea (1950-1951) and made two combat parachute assaults with the 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team. He served two tours of duty in Vietnam, including a stint as a company commander of an airborne rifle company. His military decorations include the Silver Star, three Legions of Merit and a combat infantryman's badge for both Korea and Vietnam.

He is married to the former Madeline Young of Kalispell. They are the parents of five children. Three of them live in the Kalispell area.



J.D. COLEMAN

Personnel Actions

BEAVERHEAD-DEERLODGE NATIONAL FOREST

Awards & Promotions

BIEBER, PATRICIA, secretary, promotion, BLM, Alaska
BLACKBURN, ROBIN, business management assistant, promotion, Madison RD
DARDIS, MICHAEL, supervisory forestry technician, promotion, R-2
HICKS, BARRY, aviation safety manager and air, RO, FAA
HUTTON, ROBERT, rangeland management specialist, temporary promotion, Wisdom RD
MCLAUGHLIN, DOREEN, budget and accounting analyst, SO
WILLIAMS, PATRICIA, forester, promotion, Dillon RD
WOODCOCK, KIM, assistant dispatcher, temporary promotion, SO

Reassignments & Transfers

BOWEY, CHARLES, wildlife biologist, reassignment, Dillon RD
WOFFORD, QUANE, lead forestry technician, reassignment, Dillon RD

New Employees

LOMEGA, ELLEN, forestry technician, Butte RD.

Retirements

RADOMAN, ORA, accounting technician, SO Annex

CLEARWATER NATIONAL FOREST

Awards & Promotions

ELLIOTT, CHARLIE, supervisory forestry technician, promotion, Lochsa/Pierce RD
Fire Zone

Reassignments & Transfers

PIPER, FAYE, office automation clerk, reassignment from Powell RD to R-2,
Arapahoe & Roosevelt NF
WALLACE, D. SCOTT, animal packer, conversion to career-conditional appointment,
Powell RD

CUSTER NATIONAL FOREST

Awards & Promotions

GONZALES, SHERYL L., supervisor computer specialist, SO, temporary promotion
to administrative officer, SO.

FLATHEAD NATIONAL FOREST

Awards & Promotions

ALLISON, RITA, forestry technician, Glacier View RD, special act award
BOLOG, MICHAEL, forestry technician, Glacier View RD, special act award
DIEMERT, VELIA, cartographic technician, SO, special act award
GREYTAK, JAMES, forestry technician, Swan Lake RD, QSI
LEMIEUX, LAURIE, supervisory forestry technician, SO, special act award
NELSON, LOWELL, duplicating equipment operator, SO, special act award
OSLER, SHARON, support services supervisor, Tally Lake RD, QSI
PARADISE, CLIFFORD, contract specialist, SO, special act award
ROBERTS, WARREN, forestry technician, SO, QSI
SIRUCEK, DEAN, soil scientist, SO, special act award
SULLIVAN, GAIL, purchasing agent, special act award
TREAT, PATRICIA, personnel management specialist, SO, special act award
VAN EIMEREN, PATRICK, fish biologist, Hungry Horse RD, special act award
YATES, JOSEPH, forestry technician, Swan Lake RD, performance award

Reassignments

ARNOUX, KAAREN, business management assistant, Glacier View RD, reassigned
to program assistant, SO
HARTJES, LOUIS, forestry technician, smokejumper, Payette NF, reassigned to su-
pervisory forestry technician, IHC Hungry Horse RD

Retirements

COLEMAN, J.D., public affairs specialist, SO
PAGE, WALLACE, hydrologist, SO

LOLO NATIONAL FOREST

Reassignments & Transfers

CHASE, SHIRLEY, forestry technician, Superior RD, reassignment, support services
supervisor, Superior RD.
SCHLADER, RONALD, civil engineering technician, Superior RD, reassignment, for-
estry technician, Superior RD.

Retirements

BROWN, KEVIN, forestry technician, SO, SMICC Office, retirement.
TOWER, DOUGLAS, duplicating equipment operator, SO, retirement.

Resignations

HOLDEN, ROB, forestry technician, Missoula RD, resignation.
WIEDER, ROXEEN, computer assistant, Seeley Lake RD, resignation



IN MEMORIAM

WALTER L. "WALT" EVJEN, 72, died April 23 in Missoula. In World War 11 he served in the U.S. Army as a paratrooper. Evjen worked for the Forest Service as a radio technician and retired in 1977.

Wally Page Retires; 35 Years of Service

Wally Page, a Flathead Forest hydrologist for the past 17 years, retired in April.

His total Federal service exceeded 35 years. He started as a seasonal employee in 1970 at the Thompson Falls Ranger (MT) RD, Lolo NF. His Forest Service career was interrupted by a stint in the Army National Guard and by a year in Vietnam with the 116th Combat Engineers.

Before his Army service, Wally earned a degree in forestry at the University of Montana (1964). After Vietnam, he worked as a forester on the Lolo RD and took a masters degree in forestry at the at the University of Montana. The additional education enabled him to move into hydrology. He worked on the Nez Perce NF, the Beaverhead NF and moved to the Flathead NF in 1980.

Wally is married to Diana Jo. They have three grown children: Eric, Kristin and Sarah. Wally plans to do more hunting, fishing and photography and work as a part-time fishing guide.

Retiree Recognizes 1925 Ranger Station

Another R-1 retiree has recognized the 1925 "Into The Past" photo of the Adams Camp and Ranger Station on the Nez Perce National Forest that ran on the back page (page 12) of the February issue of THE NORTHERN REGION NEWS.

Vergil L. Lindsey, Ennis, MT, served there as Alternate Ranger under Ranger John Morrison. He writes that many of the buildings in the picture were gone when he was there in 1958. It was the summer home for the Slate Creek Ranger Station (Salmon River Ranger District, White Bird, ID).

"Many of the buildings in the 1925 picture are not Forest Service buildings but were private, probably part of the old stage stop" Lindsey explains.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, and marital or familial status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication of program information (braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint, write the Secretary of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250, or call 1-800-245-6340 (voice) or 202-720-1127 (TDD). USDA is an equal employment opportunity employer.

INTO THE PAST

The historic "Into The Past" picture that ran on the back page of the April issue of THE NORTHERN REGION NEWS was a June 1921 picture of a family standing in front of a Forest Service house at the Cinnamon Ranger Station on the Gallatin National Forest.

Photo was taken by D. L. Beatty.

Do you know where this Northern Region fire warehouse was in 1922?

Federal Recycling Program



Printed on Recycled Paper



NATL AG LIB USDA
CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS RM 00
10301 BALTIMORE BLVD
BELTSVILLE MD 20705

BULK RATE
Postage & Fees Paid
USDA Forest Service
Permit No. G-40

Official Use - Penalty for Private Use \$300

The Northern Region News
USDA Forest Service
P.O. Box 7669
Missoula, MT 59807